

# PASO PACÍFICO

MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR CONSERVATION

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Founded in 2005, Paso Pacífico's mission is to restore and conserve the natural ecosystems of Central America's Pacific slope by collaborating with landowners, local communities and involved organizations to promote ecosystem conservation.

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Matthew Dolkas - Nicole Salazar

Dear Friends,

Paso Pacífico believes in investing in local people. This is why if you were to visit our office in Nicaragua, a team of Nicaraguan staff would greet you, all who were raised in-country and who are deeply passionate about our mission. We know that as we restore the dry tropical forests, the health of our watersheds will be renewed, and that as we protect our coastlines, the productivity of the oceans will return. We see our country's future as bright and are willing to put in the work to get there.

When the organization was in its first year, I was proud to begin working as "Country Director" where I could interact with colleagues and friends at key institutions such as the Ministry of the Environment and with other non-governmental organizations. In this role, I began building in-country partnerships for Paso Pacífico and helped to establish the organization as a recognized entity within Nicaragua. Today, the organization is rarely viewed as a "foreign NGO", but as a homegrown movement to protect the country's rich natural resources.

As a Nicaraguan woman, I have been conscious that young women often do not have equal opportunities in the field of conservation and biology. Early on, I was able to recruit team members like Julie Martínez and Claudia Perla, who have both dedicated countless hours to serving the rural communities and carrying out critical biological research. Today, these young women coordinate staff, plan logistics, and implement programs with confidence and skill. They are highly respected by their Nicaraguan peers.

Paso Pacífico's in-country team of over thirty employees is composed of Nicaraguan men and women who come from a range of social and educational experiences. Our community rangers who safeguard forest wildlife and sea turtles come from backgrounds in farming, fishing, and even wildlife poaching. Two of our sea turtle nurseries are managed by groups of women, and the trees we use in reforestation come from local tree nurseries. The Nicaraguan biologists who manage our projects were educated in Nicaragua, but received advanced degrees and trainings in neighboring countries.

We are proud to build an organization in Nicaragua that is grounded through its people. And mostly we are extremely grateful to our supporters and friends who believe in this approach and who contribute to Paso Pacífico both financially and through partnerships.

Thank you for making 2013 such a successful year!

Sincerely,

Liza González  
Nicaragua Country Director



# BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CONSERVATION

In our 2013 Annual Report, we wish to highlight how we build capacity for conservation. By empowering local people with the tools to act as stewards, we ensure the sustainability of our programs.

Monitoring wildlife requires technical skill and sincere empathy for the land and its animals. As we provide opportunities for local people, we see these qualities develop among our team members. For example, Juan Carlos Martinez and Christian Bonilla from the village of Escamequita are gaining the skills and passion to protect parrots into the future. Juan Carlos (pictured top left) was formerly a poacher and was already very skilled at climbing trees, but now he safely uses professional climbing equipment to visit Yellow-naped Amazon parrot nests and monitors the health of developing parrotlets. He received tree-climbing training from our experienced climber and Science Director Kim Williams-Guillén.

Christian gained hands-on practice and training in radio-telemetry thanks to a workshop organized by Paso Pacifico in May 2013, where over twenty Nicaraguan biologists were in attendance. Dr. Tom White who is a parrot expert and wildlife biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided this training voluntarily. Christian now follows baby parrots using radio-telemetry as they travel between forest patches. Both Juan Carlos and Christian are collecting crucial data and doing valuable community outreach on behalf of parrot conservation.

We give our team members the opportunity to exercise leadership, such as with community rangers Yahaira Vargas and Karen Lacayo (pictured bottom left). These two women manage the sea turtle hatchery in the Ostional fishing village spending countless hours tending to nests and speaking with community members. Through this work, they are learning to negotiate the complex social dynamics around sea turtle conservation.

Our female rangers were able to share their experiences when they traveled to Managua in May 2013 to present at the National Sea Turtle Symposium. This event helped build their confidence in their roles as sea turtle guardians and as ambassadors of their community.

When Paso Pacifico does not have the knowledge needed to implement a project, we seek out partnerships and training opportunities for our staff. For example, we are working to support farmers in reforestation with economically valuable and ecological beneficial trees. One such tree is the native balsam tree which has a beneficial oil used in shampoos around the world. However, it takes very specific techniques to be able to germinate and grow the native balsam trees. Paso Pacifico helped farmer Miguel Bermudez and team member Marvin Chevez travel to the Balsam Café Cooperative in El Salvador (pictured bottom right). Through the training received, Miguel grew over 3,000 balsam seedlings successfully and now they are planted on farms throughout the Paso del Istmo.



## OUR JUNIOR RANGERS



In 2013, our environmental education program involved over 125 children from four communities. These youth, ages 8-14, participated in regular

workshops about conservation, watershed ecology and endangered species. Each student participated in educational modules that included interactive science curricula and field trips, and upon completion they received a badge representing their mastery of the module.

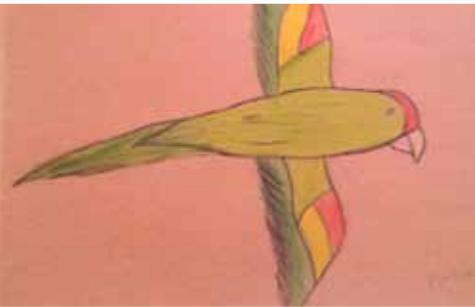
Through these activities, the Junior Rangers learned to appreciate their natural landscape and the flora and fauna that inhabit it. We believe that this program prepares them to be effective as environmental stewards.

18 community members employed  
as Forest and Sea Turtle Rangers



# 2013 HIGHLIGHTS

45  
community  
education  
workshops



120 children participated in  
nature-centered art projects

125 Junior Rangers  
graduated



2,629 participants in beach, watershed,  
& mangrove clean-ups

11,291 native trees planted



4,916 sea turtle hatchlings, thanks  
to our protection

## YOUTH AND WILDLIFE



Junior Rangers took field trips to the Karen Warren & Susan White Spider Monkey Sanctuary.

The youth observed the complex social behaviors of the monkeys and discussed the value of spider monkeys as seed dispersers. As local children observe wildlife up close, they gain a new perspective. Throughout the year, Junior Rangers embarked on similar outings, studying frogs, bats, and Yellow-naped Amazon parrots in their native forest habitat.



## REFORESTATION



In 2013, we entered the second year of our three-year partnership with the Man and Nature

Foundation to restore degraded landscapes within the La Flor and Rio Ostayo watersheds. This project is helping to provide greater economic opportunity for local communities and is helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change by sequestering carbon. As part of this project, we planted 11,291 native trees with the participation of fourteen local landowners.

## WOMEN OF EL COCO



This past year we built a new sea turtle nursery at Playa El Coco to protect sea turtle eggs from

poachers. This is our second sea turtle nursery operated completely by women. They have already successfully protected critically endangered Hawksbill and Leatherback Sea Turtle nests. Our sea turtle nurseries dramatically increase the survival rate of these important species and provide an alternative source of income for local families.

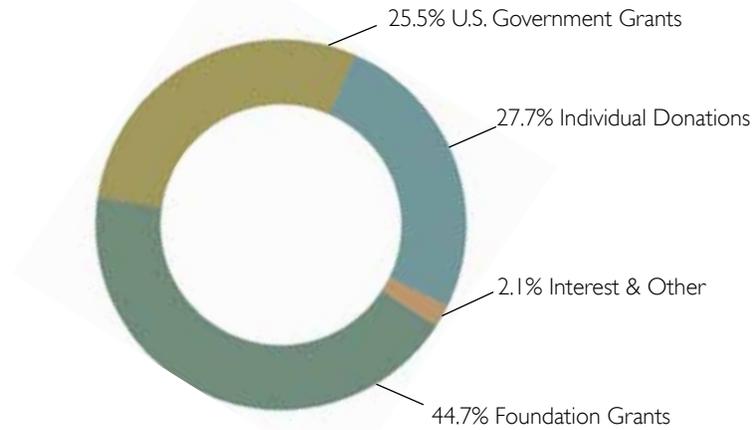
## INTEROCEANIC NICARAGUA CANAL

In June 2013, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega granted a 50-year concession to the Hong Kong-based Nicaragua Canal Development Investment Company (HKND) to build a canal between the Pacific and the Caribbean. Paso Pacifico is concerned that the proposed construction will have permanent impacts to the landscape, including a reduction of water in the shallow Lake Nicaragua, and increased forest fragmentation and wetland destruction that comes with massive infrastructure projects. We applaud the Nicaraguan Academy of Sciences, which has issued multiple public statements regarding the risks associated with the canal. The canal project has not broken ground, but Paso Pacifico is monitoring developments closely.

# 2013 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

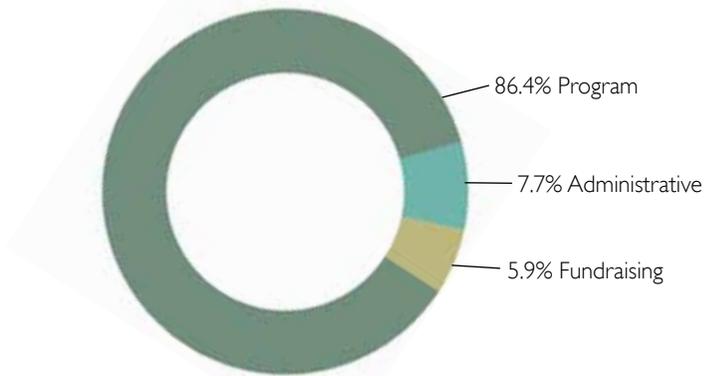
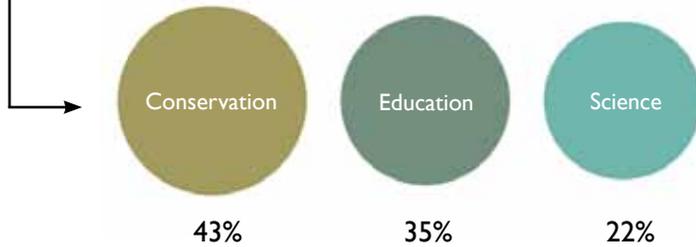
## Annual Support and Revenue

Foundation Grants	\$262,539.32
Individual Donations	\$162,353.23
U.S. Government Grants	\$149,636.20
Interest and Other Revenue	\$12,215.01
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$586,743.76</b>



## Annual Expenses

Program	\$495,773.84
Administrative	\$44,456.18
Fundraising	\$33,728.41
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$573,958.43</b>



## OUR FLAGSHIP SPECIES



Black-handed Spider Monkey  
*Ateles geoffroyi geoffroyi*  
Status: **Critically Endangered**



Hawksbill Sea Turtle  
*Eretmochelys imbricata*  
Status: **Critically Endangered**



Yellow-naped Amazon Parrot  
*Amazona auropalliata auropalliata*  
Status: **Vulnerable**

Our organizational capacity has grown over the past nine years, increasing our ability to protect the region's most vulnerable species.

## HOW WE'VE GROWN



### - THANK YOU - KAREN WARREN

by Board President, Lotte Roache

Paso Pacifico is grateful for the support it receives from its loyal and generous donors, many of whom have been with us since we were founded in 2005. Through their compassion and commitment to our mission, we are making an impact on wildlife and forest conservation.

This year we would like to especially honor and remember our donor and long-time friend Karen Warren who passed away in the fall of 2013.

Karen was active in her church and community, spending much of her free time volunteering at the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek, California. She was passionate about animals and animal care, and had a close bond with her cat, Abby. She split her time between Walnut Creek, California and Phoenix, Arizona, and she made it an annual tradition to attend the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo in San Francisco with Paso Pacifico.

During Karen's two visits to Nicaragua, she shared school supplies with rural children and visited the natural areas Paso Pacifico is working to protect. Karen was eager to help animals in need and in 2010 she and her sister Susan helped Paso Pacifico establish the Karen Warren and Susan White Spider Monkey Sanctuary. This center provides humane care for spider monkeys affected by the pet trade and gives local children a unique opportunity to interact with and learn from wildlife.

With her passing, Karen left a generous gift of \$680,000 to Paso Pacifico. Paso Pacifico is truly indebted to this generous and beautiful woman who will be remembered for her joyful laugh, her love of animals, and for her kind spirit.

If you wish to join Karen in protecting wildlife and the environment through your estate plans, please contact Kate Dolkas ([kate@pasopacifico.org](mailto:kate@pasopacifico.org)) to learn how your gift can make a difference. Bequests made through your will or trust may be designated by listing "Paso Pacifico, Tax ID 20-3396421."



Karen Warren volunteering with Paso Pacifico at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo in October, 2010.

**USA**

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**NICARAGUA**

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*We are honored to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, businesses and others who have supported Paso Pacifico in 2013. Thank you for your generosity.*

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- Carbonfund.org
- Conservation, Food, and Health Foundation
- Danida
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- InterAmerican Development Bank
- International Iguana Foundation
- Loro Parque Fundación
- Los Angeles Zoo
- Loyal Bigelow and Jedediah Dewey Foundation
- Man and Nature Foundation
- Maree Noble/Elizabeth Stumpf Memorial Foundation
- Ornithological Council
- Pedals for Progress
- Prince Bernhard Nature Fund
- The Raechel and Jackie Foundation
- Sea World Busch Gardens
- SEE Turtles
- Surf Industry Manufacturers Association
- Three Parameters Plus
- The Turtle Conservancy
- USAID
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S.F.S., International Institute for Tropical Forestry
- Woodland Park Zoo
- Woodtiger Fund

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- |                                  |                                       |
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